

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner imposed a restriction requirement under 35 USC §121 to restrict the invention to one of five groups. The groups included groups I and II and a further identification that groups III, IV and V are species of group I.

The Examiner uses the term “restriction” relative to groups I and II, leading Applicant to understand that this is a restriction requirement under 37 CFR §1.142. The Examiner uses the terms “elect”, “species” and “generic claim” relative to the selection of groups III, IV or V, leading Applicant to understand that this is an election requirement under 37 CFR §1.146.

In the restriction requirement under 37 CFR §1.142, Applicant has elected invention Group I, claims 1 – 31. Claim 32 is marked as withdrawn.

In the election requirement under 37 CFR §1.146, Applicant has elected Group III wherein pressure is mechanically exerted. The elected invention is encompassed by claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 29, and 30.

Claim 24 (identified by the Examiner as in Group IV) has been amended to depend on claim 23, so is included in the elected claims. The claimed elastic force is a mechanical force as in the elected claims.

Claims 5, 6, 7, 8, 25, 26, 27, 28 and 31 have been withdrawn. In the event that a generic claim is found allowable, Applicant respectfully requests that any non-elected claims be examined for patentability.

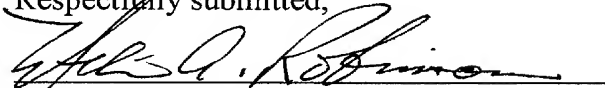
Applicant respectfully traverses the restriction and election requirements and reserves the right to file a divisional application on any non-elected claim.

Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and allowance of the present application in view of the forgoing.

Deposit Account Information

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or to credit any overpayment to account no. 501519.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Melvin A. Robinson", is written over a horizontal line.

Melvin A. Robinson (Reg. No. 31,870)

Schiff Hardin LLP

Patent Department

6600 Sears Tower

Chicago, Illinois 60606

Telephone: 312-258-5785

CUSTOMER NO. 26574

ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT